



# Some Perspectives on Energy

UCLA

January 20, 2011



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# The Perfect Storm...

## Demand Trends

- Consumption outpacing discovery
- China & India

## Supply Trends

- Nationalization of reserves
- High oil prices
- Peak production

## Energy Security

- Little domestic supply
- Unrest in producing regions

## Environmental

- Carbon emissions
- Drilling/mining



Where will we find a significant, renewable, domestic source of transportation fuels?



## In the Future....



We will get most of our transportation fuels from:

- A) Electric cars
- B) Hydrogen
- C) Conventional oil and gas
- D) Biofuels
- E) Hot air from UCLA professors



# Aren't "Clean Electrons" The Answer?...

**CSP**



**Photovoltaic**



**Wind**



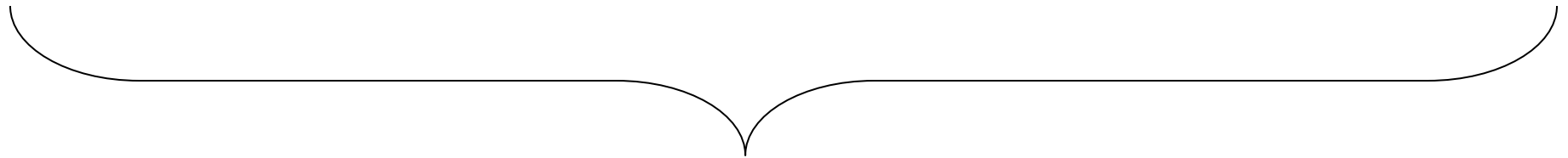
**Geothermal**



**Nuclear?**



**Clean Coal?**

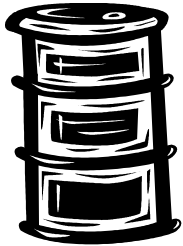


**Solar currently 0.01%; Wind currently 0.75% of US grid. More electrons means more coal**





# Where Does A Barrel Of Oil Go?



**Only ~44% of a barrel is used to produce gasoline**  
**Only 48% of gasoline use is passenger cars (21% of the barrel)**  
**Of that 21%, how much can be replaced with “electrons”?**





**Hybrids – YES!**

**All Electric – Unlikely!**

**2010**



**Range: 40 miles (electric only)**  
**Internal Combustion Engine – Yes!**  
**4 cylinder – 1.0 liter**  
**Increased mpg – Yes**  
**Still needs liquid fuel? - absolutely**

**202?**



**Crash test performance?**  
**Range?**  
**Heater?**  
**Air conditioner?**  
**Stuck in traffic?**  
**DVD player?**

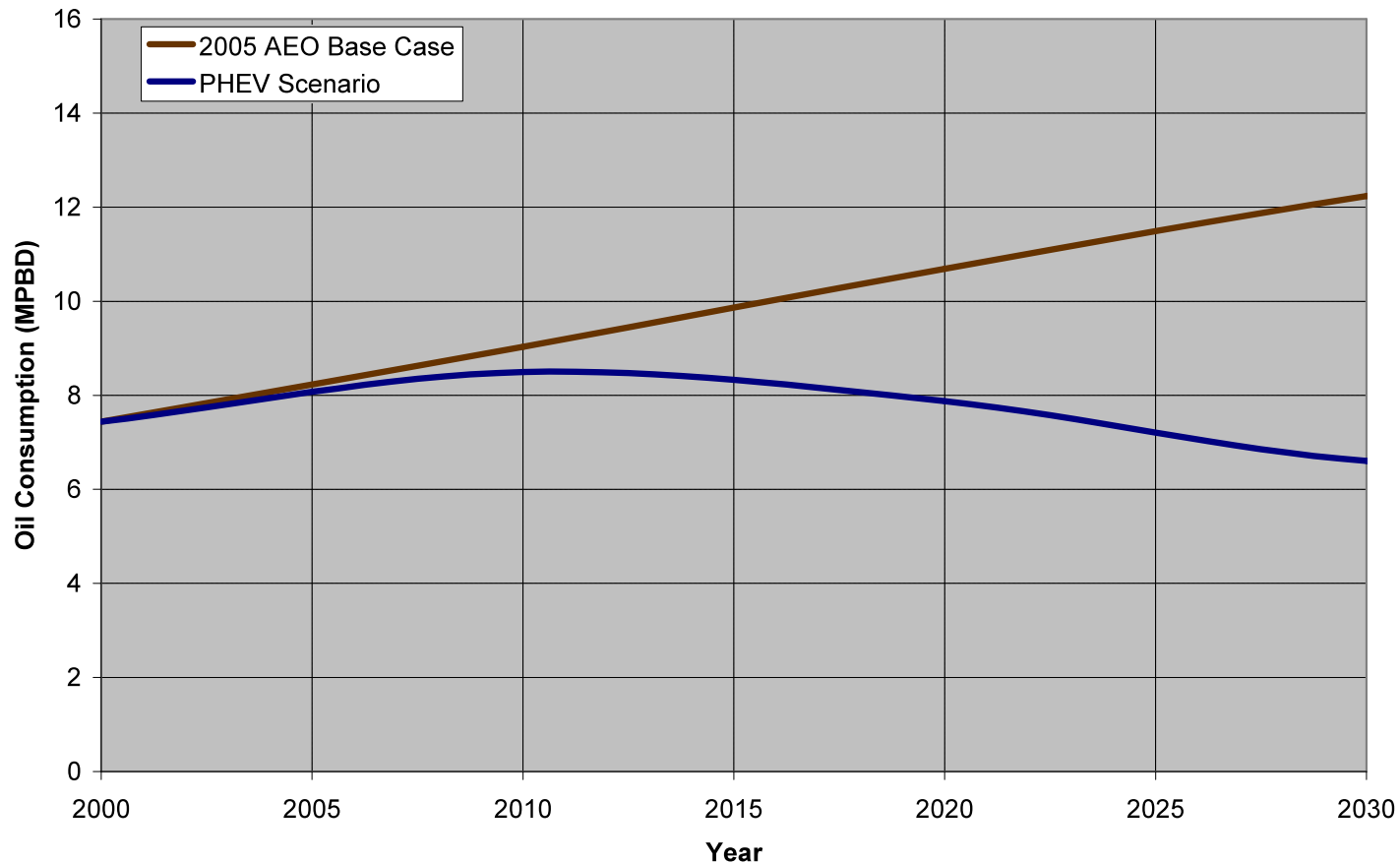
*We can significantly increase fuel efficiency, but we cannot do away with fuel*



# Can PHEV's Replace Oil?



Light Duty Fleet Oil Use - Impact of PHEVs on Consumption



Assumptions: 2010 new car sales are 100% hybrids; 2020 new cars are 50% PHEV



## Meanwhile...



Global demand growth for low cost, internal combustion transportation is likely to outpace increases in fuel efficiency



## In the Future....



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- C) Conventional oil and gas
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## In the Future....



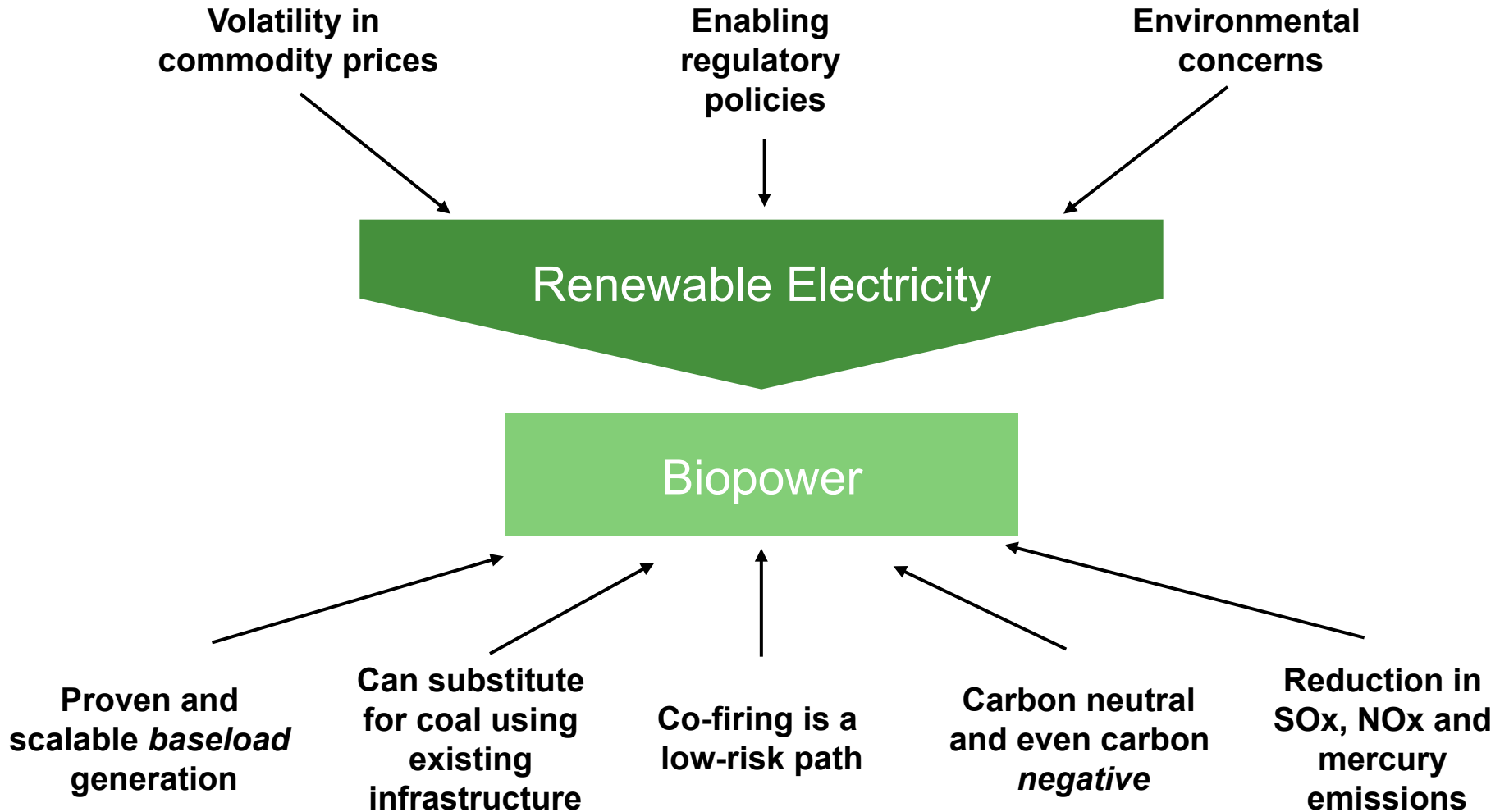
We will get most of our power from:

- A) Solar and wind
- B) Conventional coal and gas
- C) Nuclear
- D) Biopower
- E) Hot air from UCLA professors



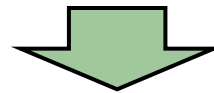
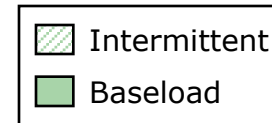


# The Perfect Storm for Biopower





# Co-firing is Cheaper than Solar and is Baseload Unlike Wind or Solar



**Co-firing becomes even more attractive once carbon offsets from biomass and SOx and NOx reductions are considered.**



## In the Future....



We will get most of our power from:

- A) Solar and wind
- B) Conventional coal and gas
- C) Nuclear
- D) Biopower
- E) Hot air from UCLA professors



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## The Biggest Drawback of Biofuels is:

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- A) They cause food prices to rise
- B) They will starve the poor
- C) They threaten the world's forests
- D) They can't scale
- E) They cause childhood obesity



# The Opportunity for Biofuels

With plausible technology developments, biofuels could supply some *30% of global demand...*

To realize that goal, so-called advanced biofuels must be developed from *dedicated energy crops*, separately and distinctly from food.

*Steven E. Koonin*  
*Chief Scientist, BP*



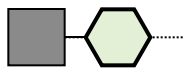
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# Basic Carbohydrate Biochemistry



Sucrose (sugarcane)

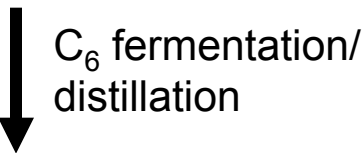
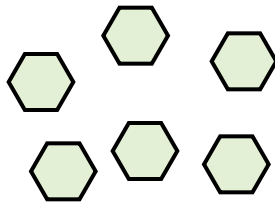
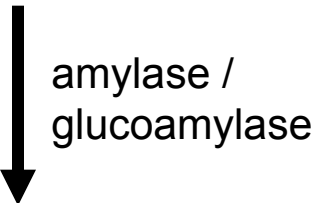


Hydrolysis /  
C<sub>6</sub> fermentation /  
distillation

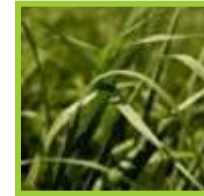
Biofuels



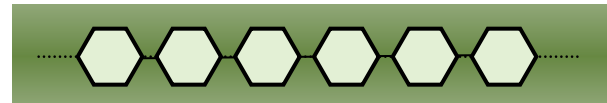
Starch (corn grain)



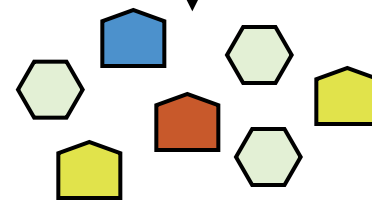
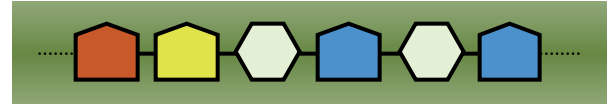
Biofuels



Cellulose (cell walls)



Hemicellulose (cell walls)



Biofuels





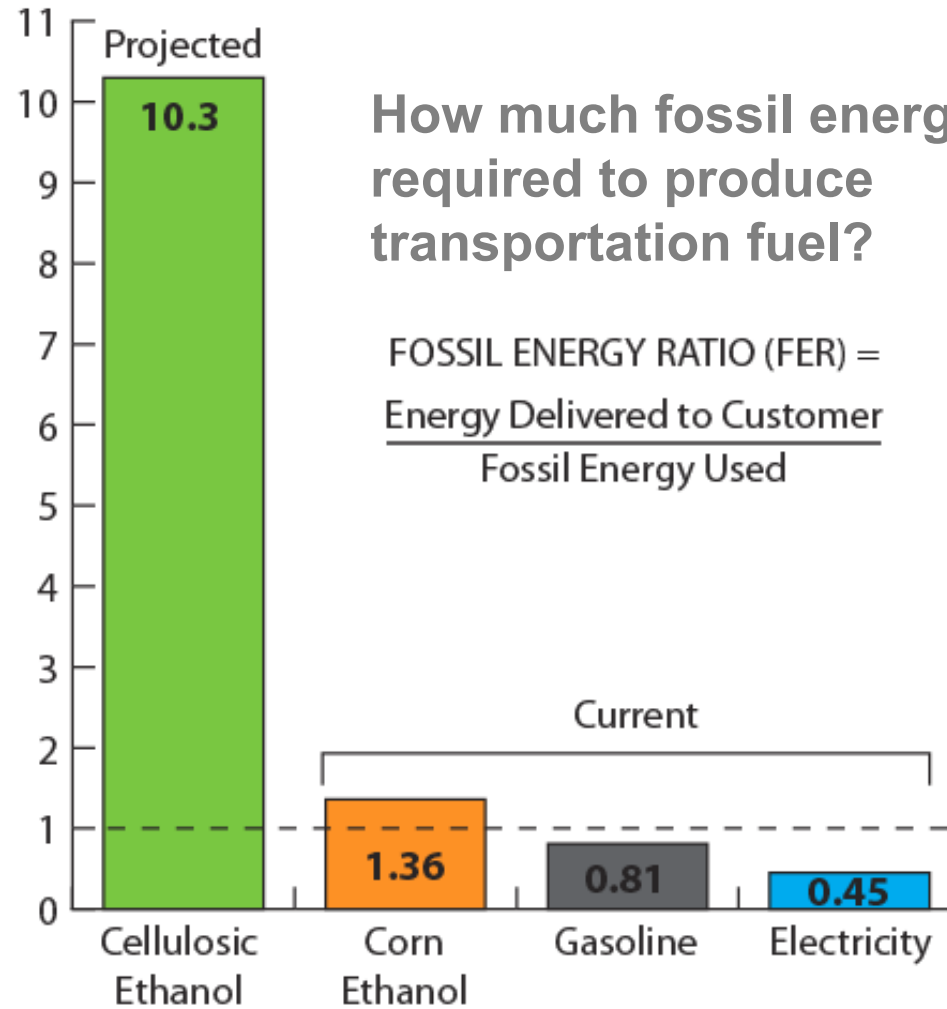
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# Not all sources are the same

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How much fossil energy is required to produce transportation fuel?

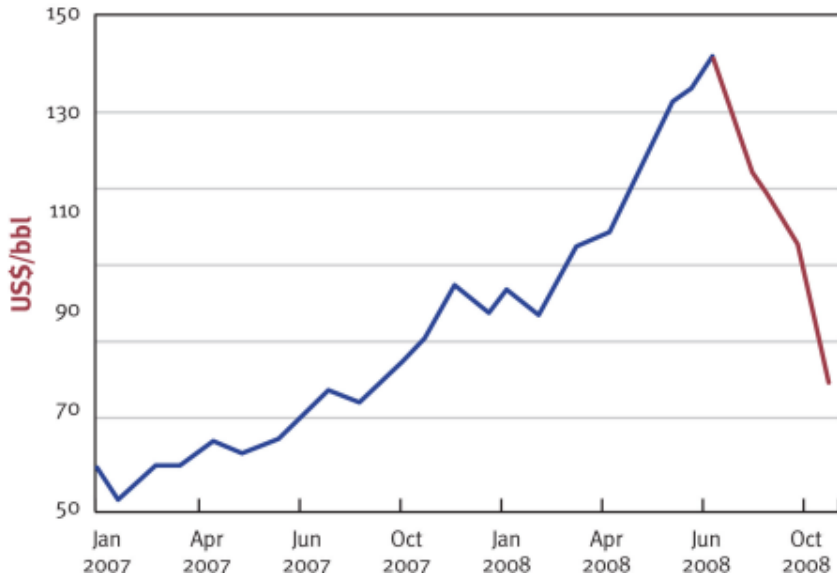
$$\text{FOSSIL ENERGY RATIO (FER)} = \frac{\text{Energy Delivered to Customer}}{\text{Fossil Energy Used}}$$



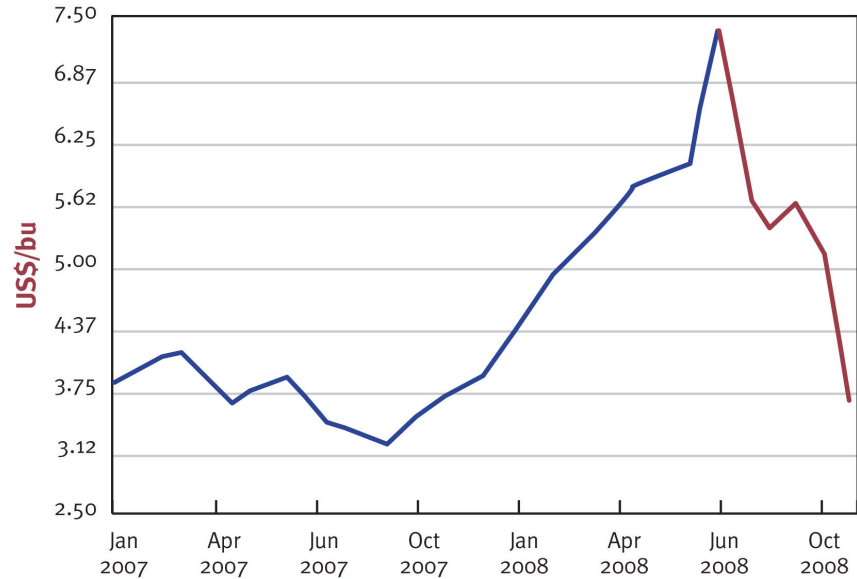
Source: Biofuels Joint Roadmap, June 2006, DOE; data derived from Brinkman et al. 2005



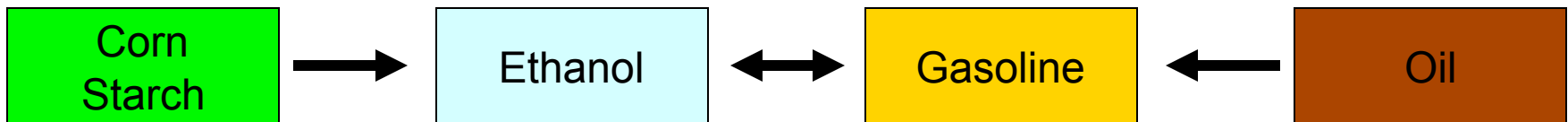
# Why Do Corn Prices Track Oil?



Crude Oil Price (NYMEX)  
January 2007 to October 2008

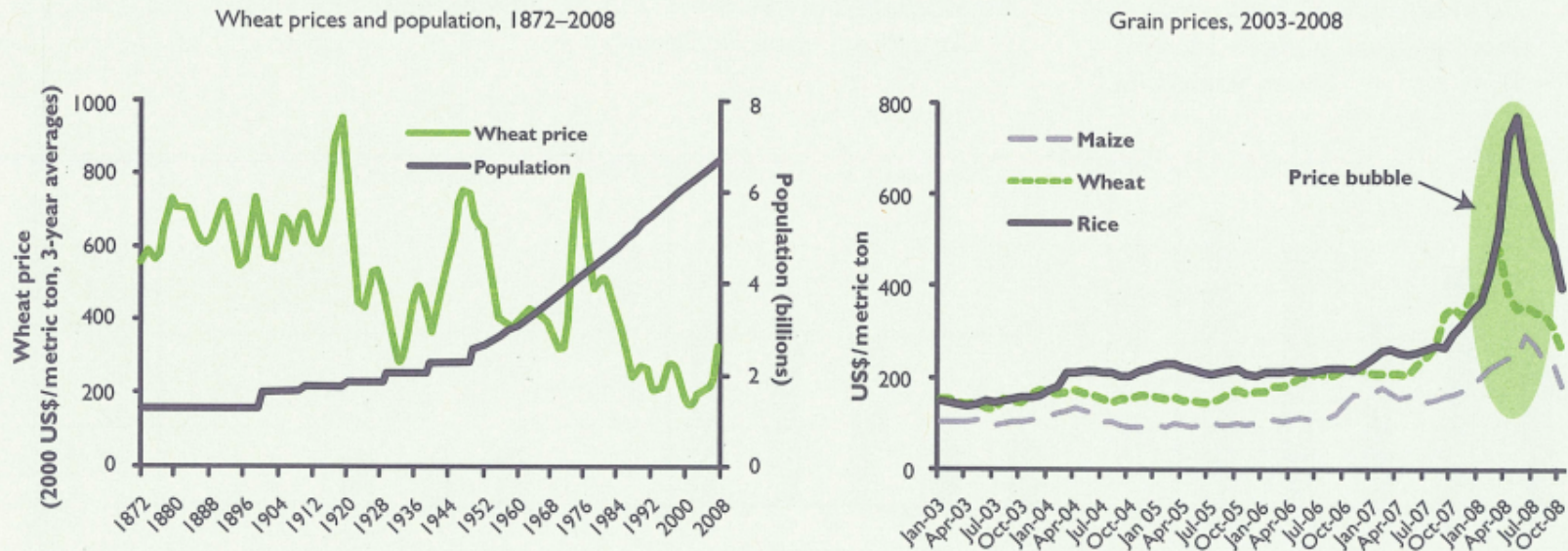


Corn Price (CBOT)  
January 2007 to October 2008





**Figure 2—Global food prices in the long and short run**

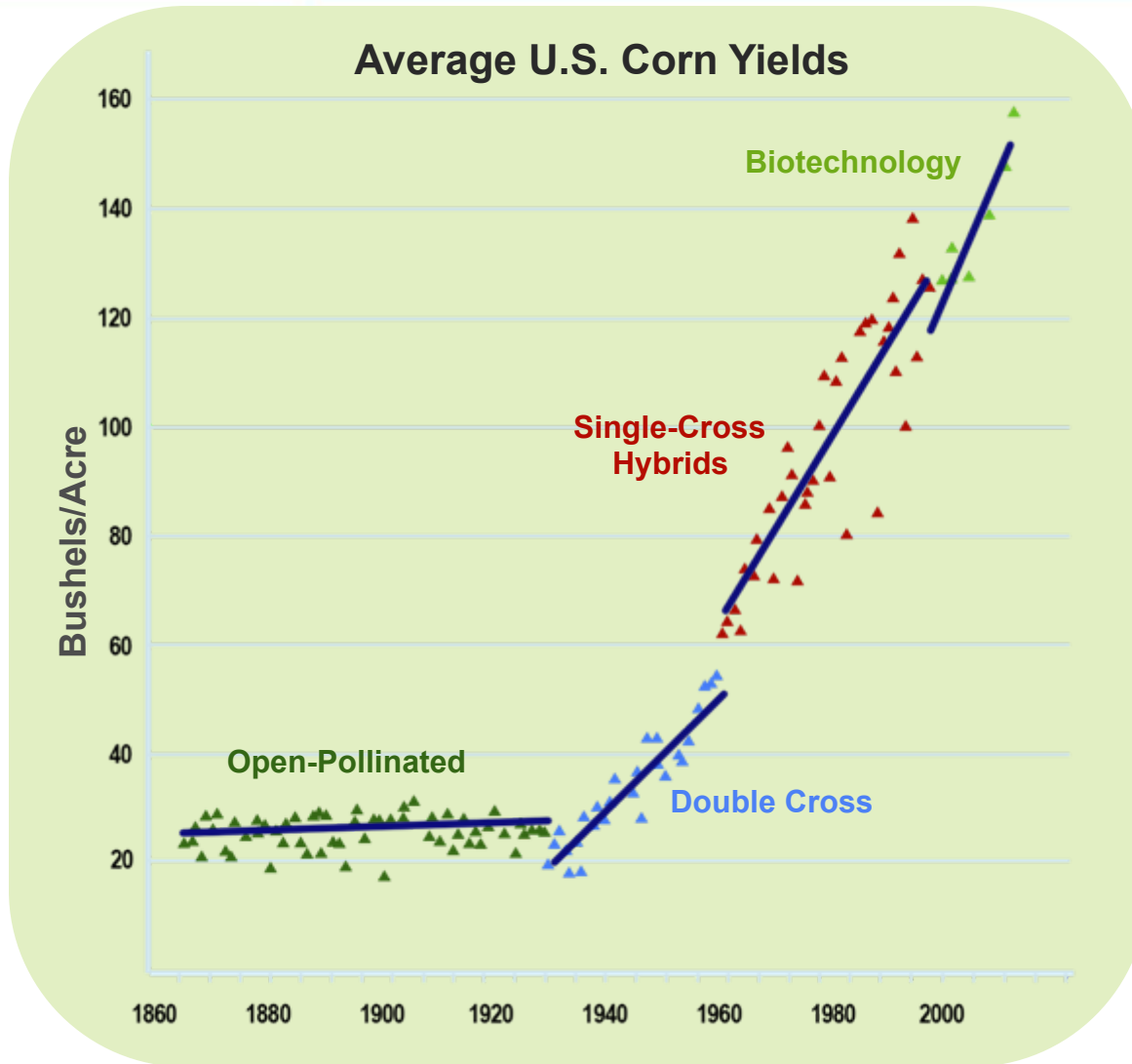


Sources: The historical data are compiled and interpolated by the author from data from BLS 2008, Godo 2001, NBER 2008, OECD 2005, U.S. Census Bureau 2008, and United Nations 1999; the recent food price data are from FAO 2008a.



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# Agriculture is NOT Static...



Hybrid genetics & biotechnology have driven a **five-fold increase** in average U.S. corn yields since 1940.



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# Not Enough Food in the World?



- Clinically obese (>30%) outnumber malnourished by 2:1 margin (1.6B to 0.8B)
- Only 60% of global corn acres are hybrid varieties
- Less than 50% of global rice acres are hybrid varieties
- Increased yield is the answer for both food and fuel crops

*Incentives, innovation and technology can make it more sustainable*

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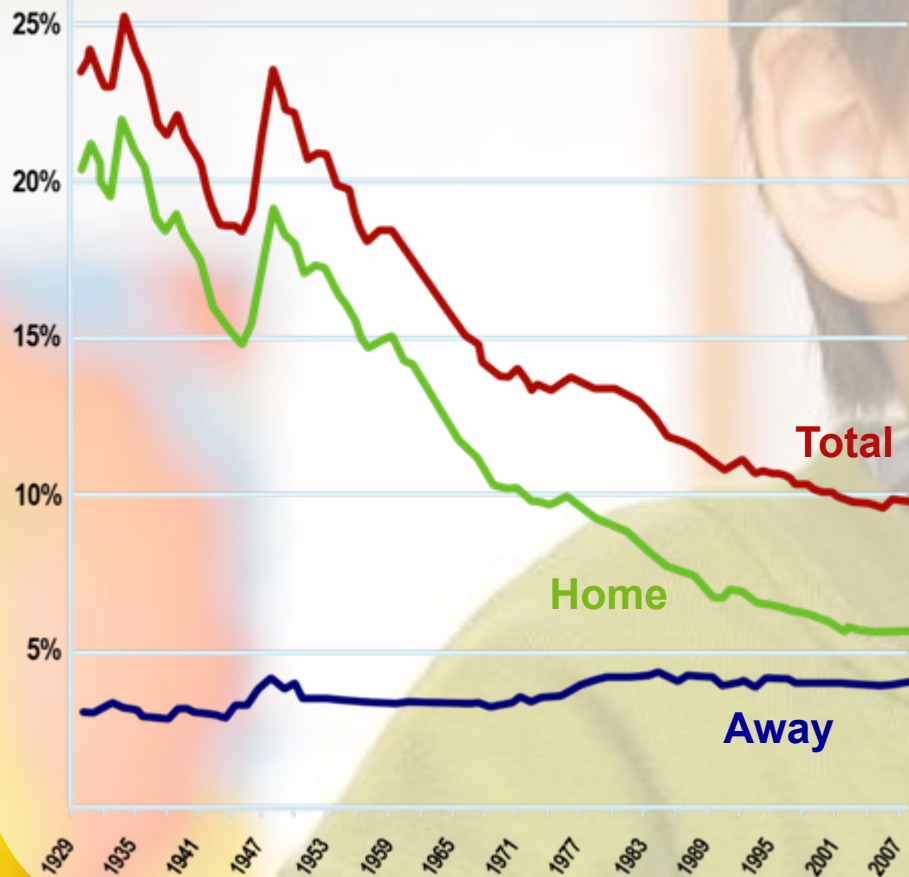


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# Is Food Too Expensive?



**U.S. Food Expenses**  
*Percent of Household Income*







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# The Real “Crime Against Humanity”

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## Corn Yield Trends (Bushel Per Acre)

	1990	2000	2005
<b>World Average</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>USA</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Argentina</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>109</b>
<b>China</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Brazil</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Sub-Saharan Africa</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>

Source: Monsanto/Doane Forecast

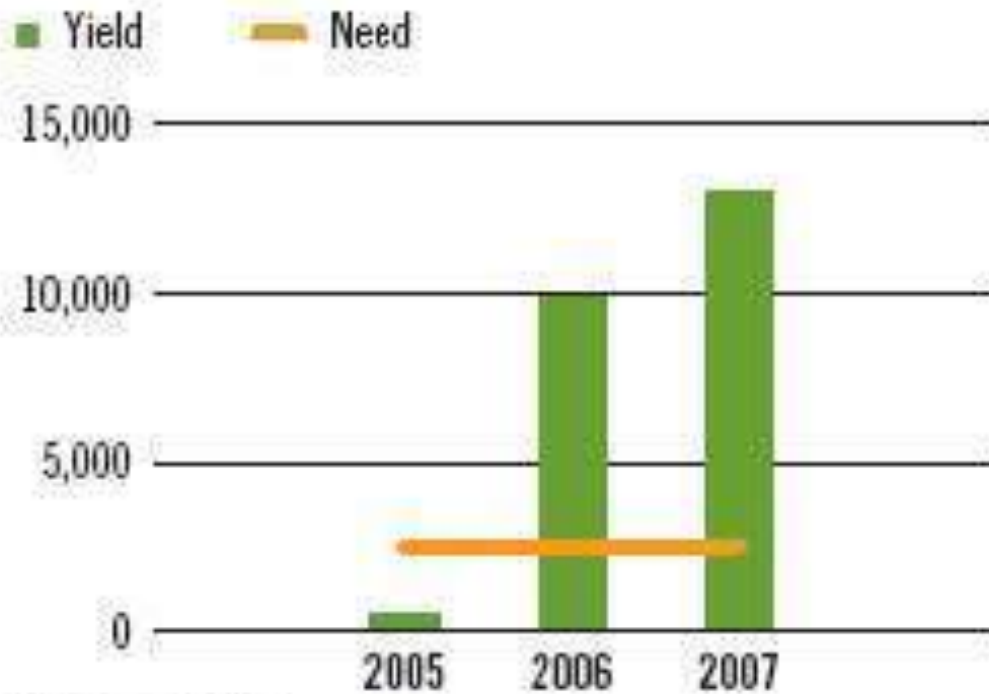


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# A Tale Of One Malawi Farmer...

## Mary Katsonya's Harvest, 2005-2007

(in kilograms maize)



Source: Monsanto

2005 – Non-hybrid varieties from saved seed

2006 - \$70 of hybrid seed and fertilizer

2007 – Chose hybrids, not saved seed

**FAO STAT: Malawi maize yields average 1,200 kg/hectare vs. over 8,000 for USA**

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# Is Food A Market Good Or Public Good?



*Critics seem to think that U.S. corn farmers should feed the world by producing at or below their production costs...*



*Yet, no one seriously expects that the Saudis will fuel the world by selling oil at or below their production costs...*



## Is Food a...



- A) Market good
- B) Public good

Healthcare, higher education, home ownership?



## Beware Malthusian Myths...



“For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie – deliberate, contrived and dishonest, but the myth, persistent, persuasive, unrealistic. We enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.”

- John F. Kennedy





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## The Biggest Drawback of Biofuels is:

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- A) They cause food prices to rise
- B) They will starve the poor
- C) They threaten the world's forests
- D) They can't scale
- E) They cause childhood obesity





“Farming looks mighty easy  
when your plow is a pencil,  
and you are a thousand  
miles from the corn field.”

- Dwight Eisenhower





# Indirect Land Use Conversion (ILUC)

Are U.S. Farmers....

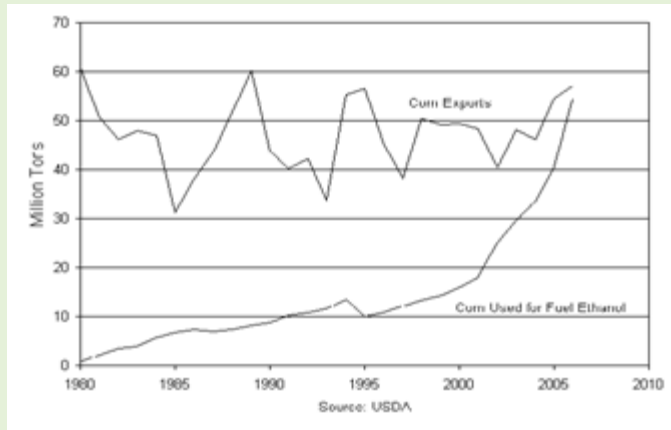


Responsible For Brazilian Deforestation?

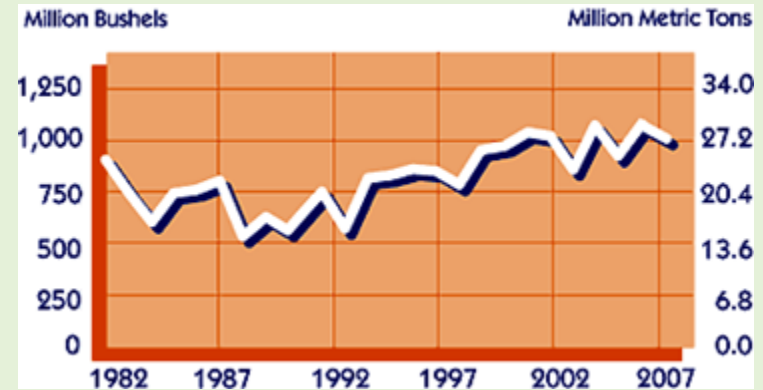


# Indirect Land Conversion?

### U.S. Corn for Ethanol and for Exports



### U.S. Soybean Exports



**Land use changes are NOT driven by lack of US grain exports or increased US ethanol production**



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# Indirect Land Use Impact?



World's largest photovoltaic installation in Waldpolenz Solar Park, Germany...  
Where did all the trees go? Shouldn't we be using the land to grow food?

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# If You Were A Bird, Would You Prefer....

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Bird nest woven into a switchgrass stand growing in northern Georgia.



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# Some thoughts on Agriculture...



# A Brief History of Life...



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<u>Event</u>	<u>Years Ago</u>
Formation of Earth	4,600,000,000
Unicellular life	3,500,000,000
Photosynthesis	3,000,000,000
Multicellular life	1,000,000,000
Cambrian explosion	600,000,000
Land plants	400,000,000
Flowering plants	150,000,000
K/T extinction	65,000,000
Hominids	7,000,000
End of last Ice Age	18,000
Agriculture	10,000
Green Revolution	40

***Agriculture is not “natural”, it is a distinctly human activity***

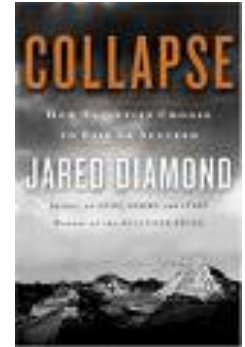


# Should We Have Agriculture?



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The Worst Mistake In The History of the Human Race  
“a catastrophe from which we have never recovered”  
-Jared Diamond



or



Agriculture -The Basis of Civilization  
“The single, decisive factor that made it possible  
for mankind to settle in permanent communities  
was agriculture”



-Encyclopedia Britannica



# Plants Did Not Evolve To Serve Man



Figure 2. Modern corn hybrid (right), its wild relative teosinte (left), and their hybrid (cob in the center). (Photo kindly provided by John Doebley.)



Figure 1. Cultivated tomato (left) and its wild relative *Lycopersicon pimpinellifolium* (right; approximate diameter of smaller tomato = 1 cm). (Photo kindly provided by Steve Tanksley.)



Genetic manipulation or “breeding” has been instrumental





# What Limits Crop Yields?



- **Germplasm**  
(genetics)



- **Biotic stress**

- Weeds
- Insects
- Fungi



- **Abiotic stress**

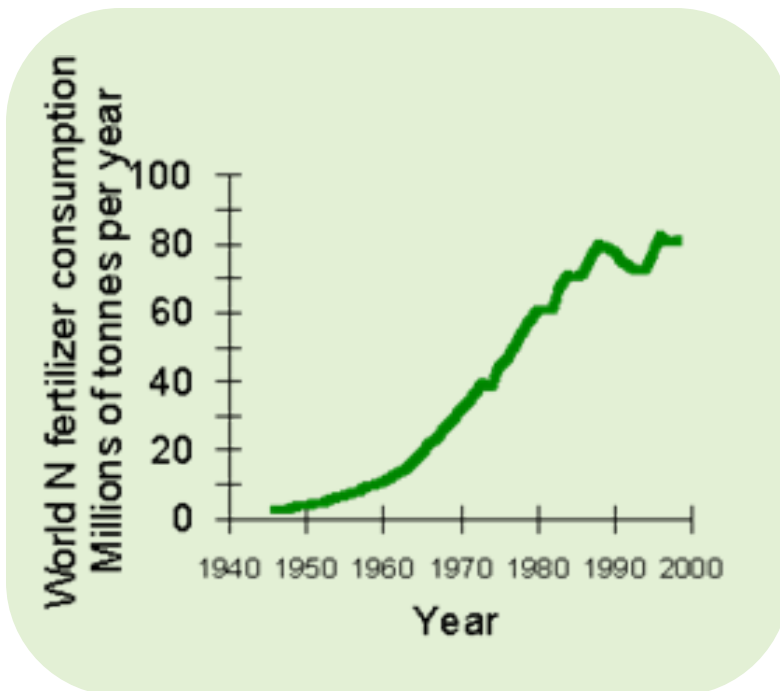
- Drought
- Nitrogen
- Temperature





# Agriculture Is Not Perfect...

- Loss of biodiversity
- Energy inputs
- Nitrogen run off







## But It Can Feed Many People

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One bushel of corn produces 92,797 calories

One human requires 1,800 calories per day



- IF only the world's corn farmers (146M hectares) achieved the US *average* yield (358 bu/ha) = we could feed 7.46B on corn alone

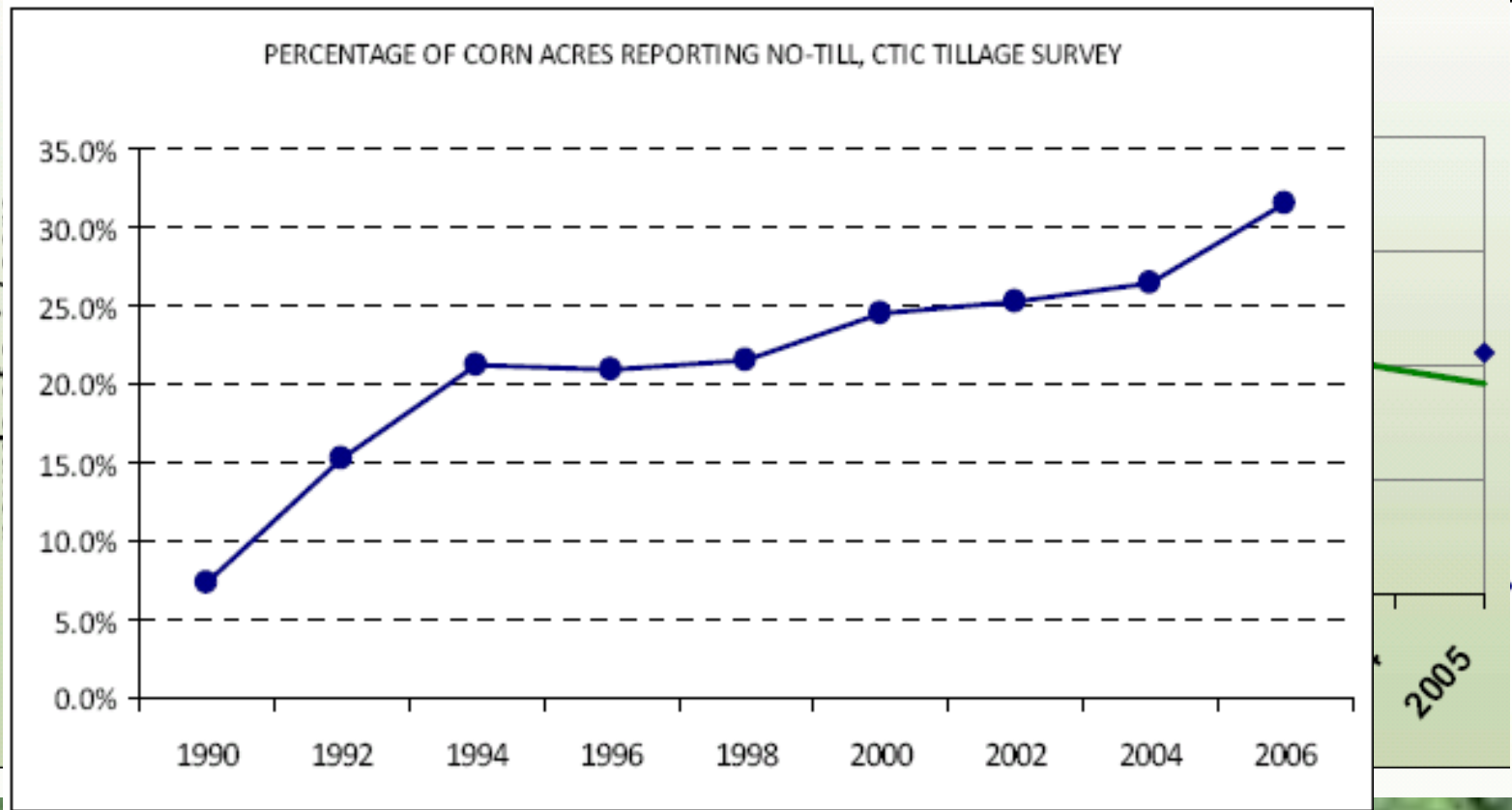


- IF all the world's corn farmers duplicated the top 10% of US corn yields (~700 bu/ha in 2006) = we could feed over 14B people on corn alone

*Incentives, innovation and technology can make it more sustainable*



# Technology: More Yield / Less Impact



Source: NCGA

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# Food versus Fuel versus Corn glut...

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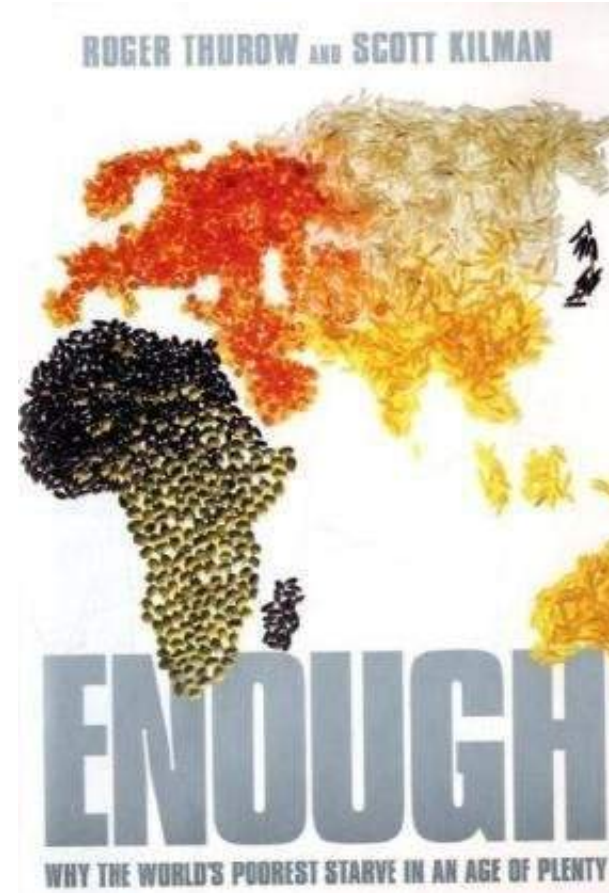
## USDA Report: Farmers Shatter Corn Production Records on Fewer Acres

(January 12, 2010) Washington – The final report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the 2009 corn harvest is one for the record books. Despite poor planting conditions, a cool, wet growing season, and an abysmal harvest that still sees corn standing in fields, American farmers shattered records for both yield per acre and total production.

In the January Crop Production report, USDA estimates farmers averaged 165.2 bushels of corn per acres, up from its previous estimate of 162.9 and shattering the previous record of 160.4 in 2004. Notably, average yields are more than 11 bushels per acre higher (7 percent) than last year's average yield. In addition, this record yield helped produce the largest corn crop ever – 13.2 billion bushels. All of this occurred despite one of the slowest and most challenging harvests on record.



# Farm Productivity and Poverty



**Hunger is caused by poverty...not a lack of crop land**





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# What Is Biotechnology?



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**Genetic engineering** or recombinant DNA technology to directly alter the structure and characteristics of genes, circa 1980's



**Genomics** - the study of an organism's entire genome by determining the entire DNA sequence of organisms and fine-scale mapping efforts, circa 1990's

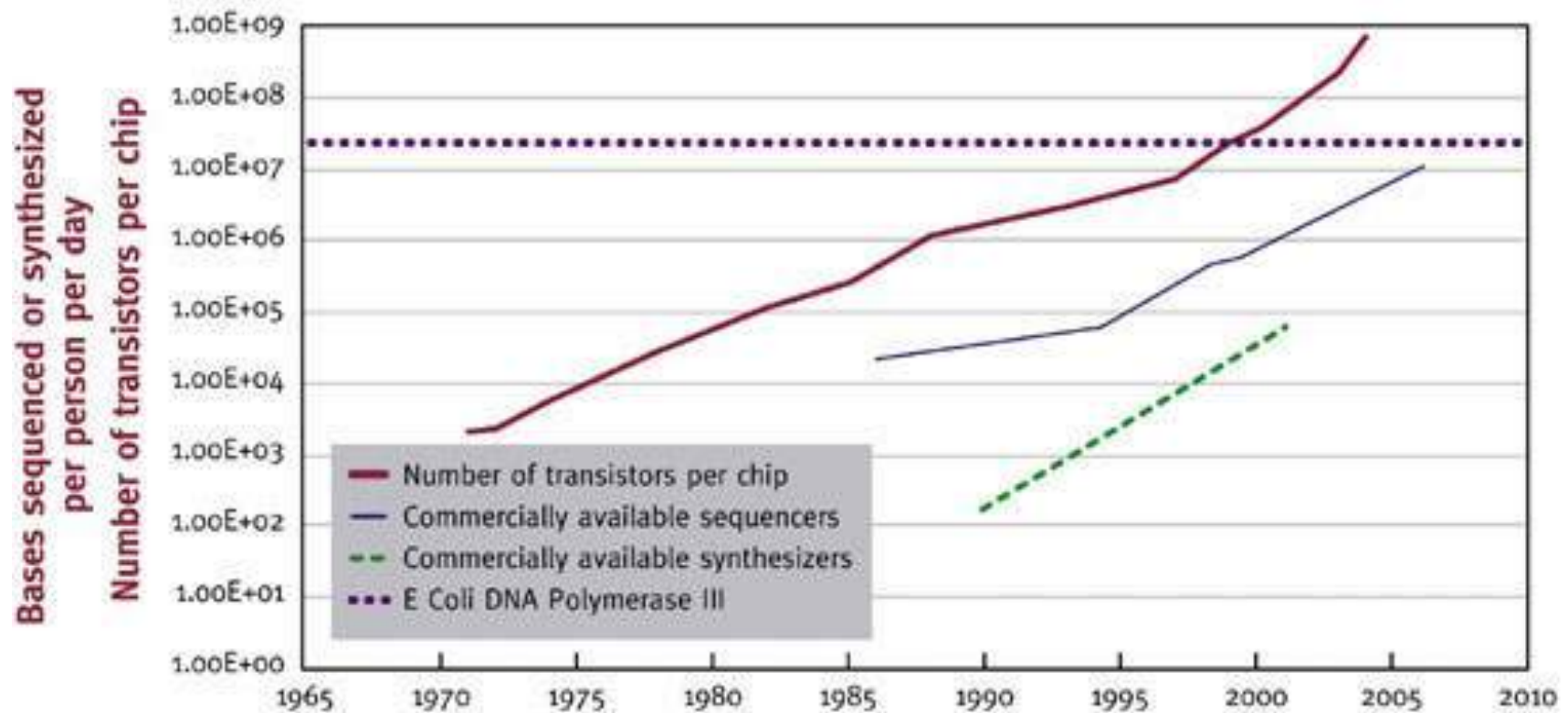


**Marker assisted selection** or **breeding** is a process whereby a DNA marker (morphological, biochemical or one based on DNA/RNA variation) is used for indirect selection of a genetic determinant or determinants of a trait of interest, circa 2000

**Synthetic biology** – genetic engineering on an organism-level scale. Combines molecular biology and engineering principles to design and build ("synthesize") novel biological functions and systems, circa 2010



# Technology Improves...



Source: R. Carlson, Bio-era

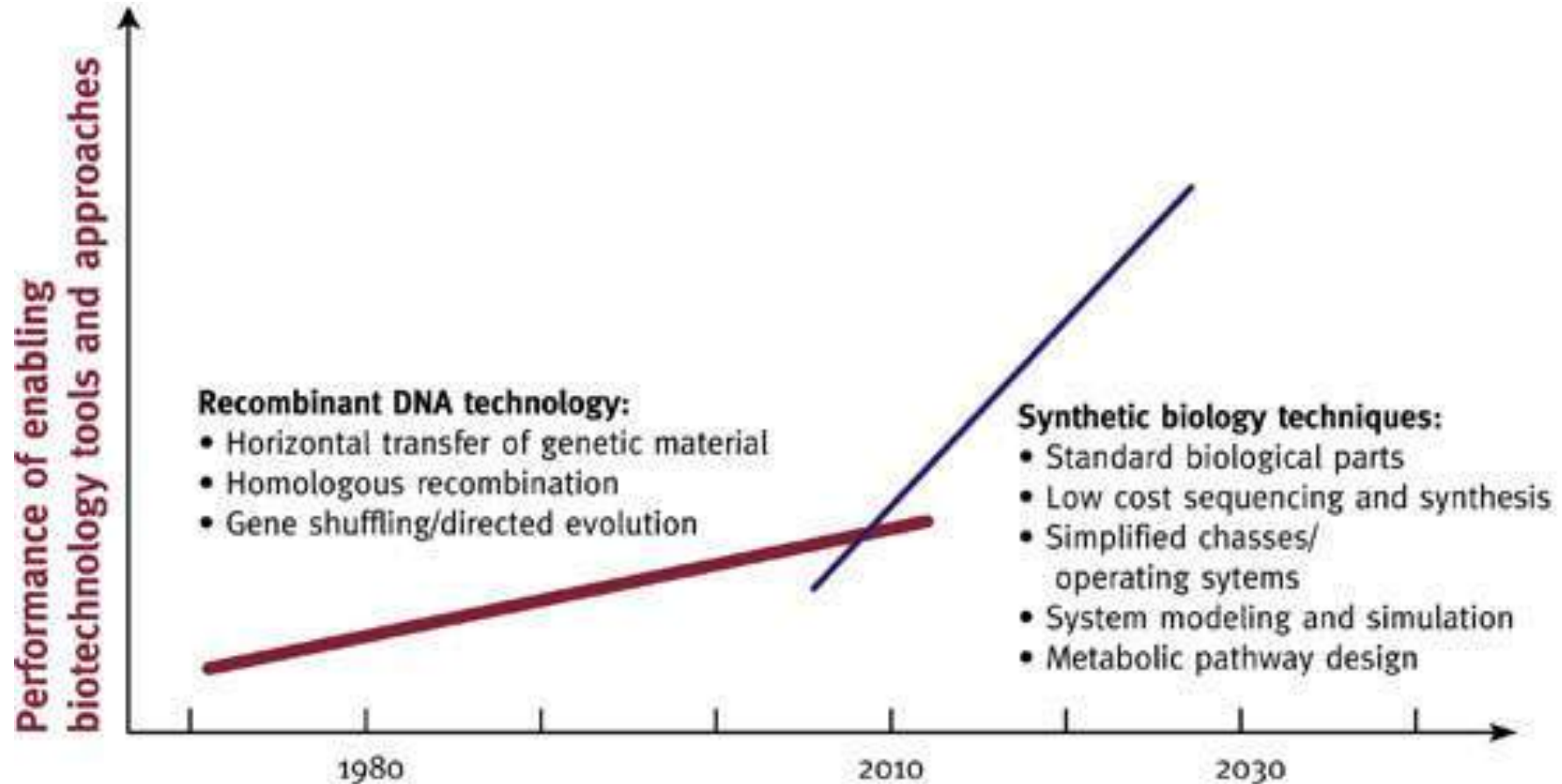
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## And Accelerates...



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# Essay On The Principle of Population

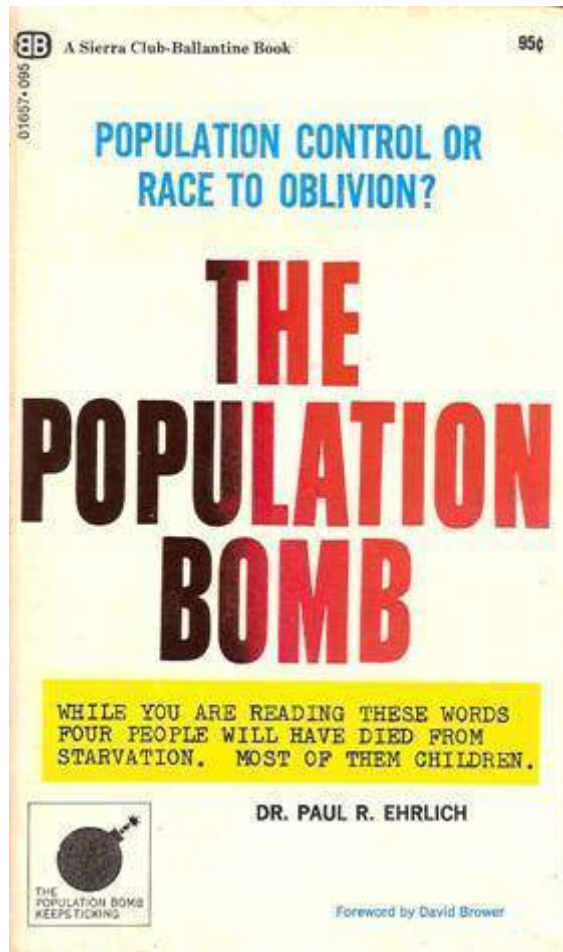


**Thomas Robert Malthus**  
1766 - 1834

“The power of population is so superior to the power of the earth to produce subsistence for man, that premature death must in some shape or other visit the human race...”



## Some Predictions in 1968...



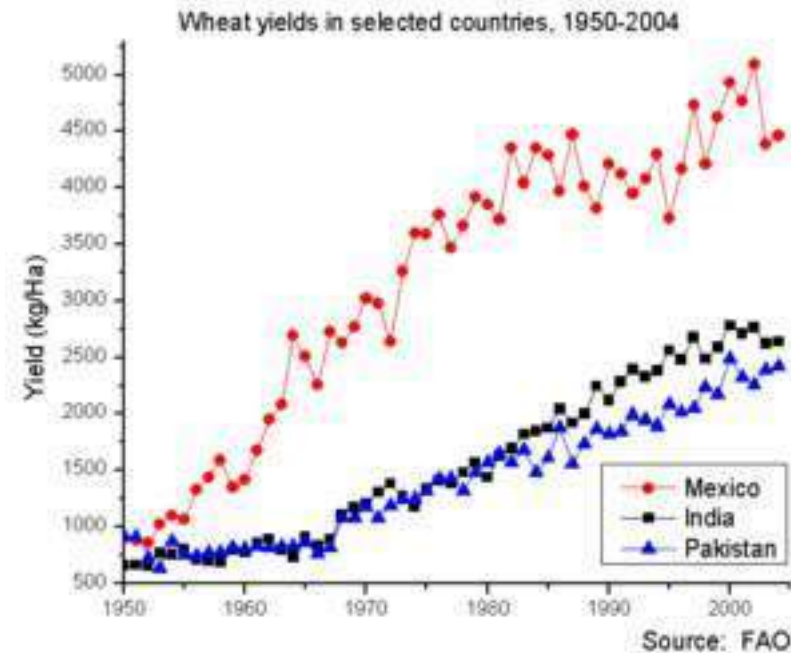
- "the battle to feed all of humanity is over"
- "In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now."
- "India couldn't possibly feed two hundred million more people by 1980,"
- "I have yet to meet anyone familiar with the situation who thinks that India will be self-sufficient in food by 1971."



## Other activities in 1968...



**Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug**



Innovation is game changing...



# The Best Way to Predict the Future...



December 17, 1903

← 66 yrs →



July 20, 1969

...is to create it!





# Look Forward, Not Backwards

© Cartoonbank.com



*“Something’s just not right—our air is clean, our water is pure, we all get plenty of exercise, everything we eat is organic and free-range, and yet nobody lives past thirty.”*





## Some “Recent” Events...

- 1900 - Rediscovery of Mendel’s Laws
- 1935 - Hybrid genetics
- 1953 - Structure of DNA
- 1983 - Biotechnology in plants
- 1995 - Marker-assisted breeding
- 2001 - First plant genome sequenced
  
- What will the next 66 years bring?



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## Some Predictions...by a Techno-Optimist

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### ■ **Near term**

- Accelerated yield increases from markers
- Broader adoption of hybrids
- Drought tolerance (<5 yrs)
- Improved nitrogen use efficiency (<10 yrs)



### ■ **Mid-term**

- Doubling of average US corn yields by 2030
- Quadrupling of global grain yield averages by 2030

### ■ **Long Term** (within the next 66 years...)

- Nitrogen fixing grain crops
- Perennial grain crops



- All will require genetic manipulation; breeding, markers, mapping, genomics, transgenes, cisgenes and...R&D funding, political will, positive regulatory environments



## In the Future....



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“The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt





# Switchgrass has a Expansive Root System







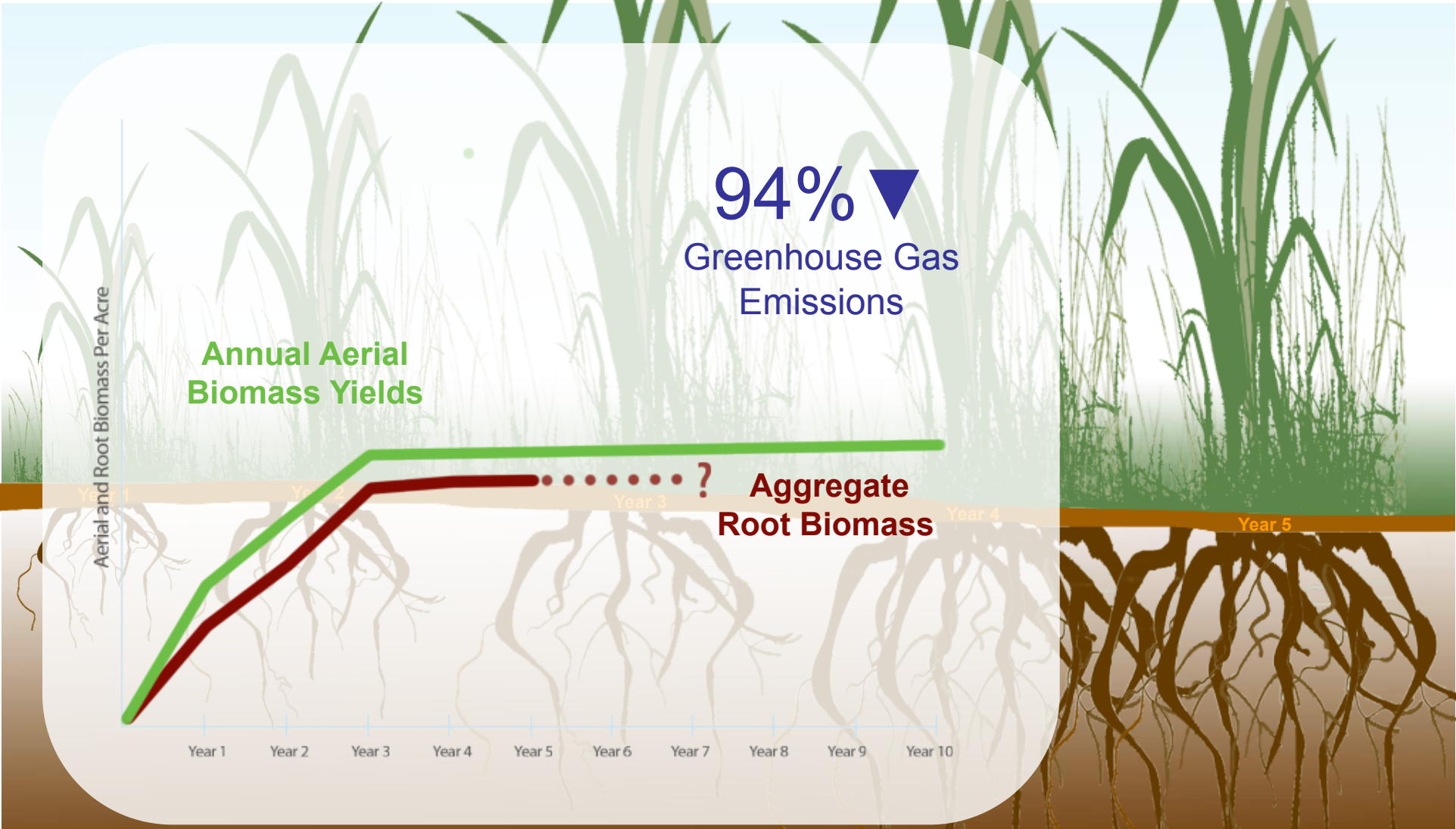
# Carbon-Negative Energy Crop Systems?

94% ▼

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Annual Aerial Biomass Yields

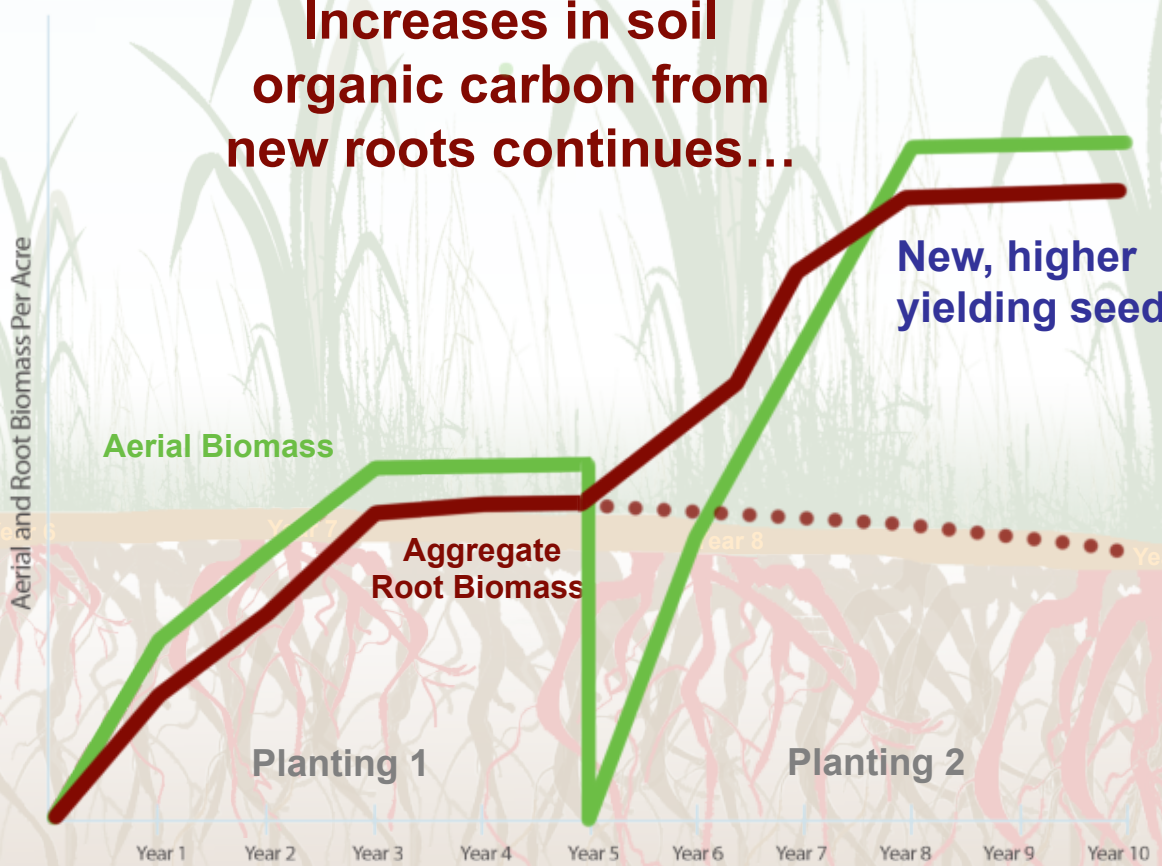
Aggregate Root Biomass





# Repeat No-Till Planting Over Old Roots

**Increases in soil organic carbon from new roots continues...**





# A Good Start...



## Soil Carbon Storage by Switchgrass Grown for Bioenergy

M. A. Liebig • M. R. Schmer • K. P. Vogel •  
R. B. Mitchell

**Abstract** Life-cycle assessments (LCAs) of switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* L.) grown for bioenergy production require data on soil organic carbon (SOC) change and harvested C yields to accurately estimate net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. To date, nearly all information on SOC change under switchgrass has been based on modeled assumptions or small plot research, both of which do not take into account spatial variability within or across sites for an agro-ecoregion. To address this need, we measured change in SOC and harvested C yield for switchgrass fields on ten farms in the central and northern Great Plains, USA (930 km latitudinal range). Change in SOC was determined by collecting multiple soil samples in transects across the fields prior to planting switchgrass and again 5 years later after switchgrass had been grown and managed as a bioenergy crop. Harvested aboveground C averaged  $2.5 \pm 0.7$  Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> over the 5 year study. Across sites, SOC increased significantly at 0–30 cm ( $P=0.03$ ) and 0–120 cm ( $P=0.07$ ), with accrual rates of 1.1 and 2.9 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> (4.0 and 10.6 Mg CO<sub>2</sub> ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>), respectively. Change in SOC across sites varied considerably, however, ranging from -0.6 to 4.3 Mg C ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> for the 0–30 cm depth. Such variation in SOC change must be taken into

Current cultivars with existing management practices have been shown to sequester ~5 tons/acre/year

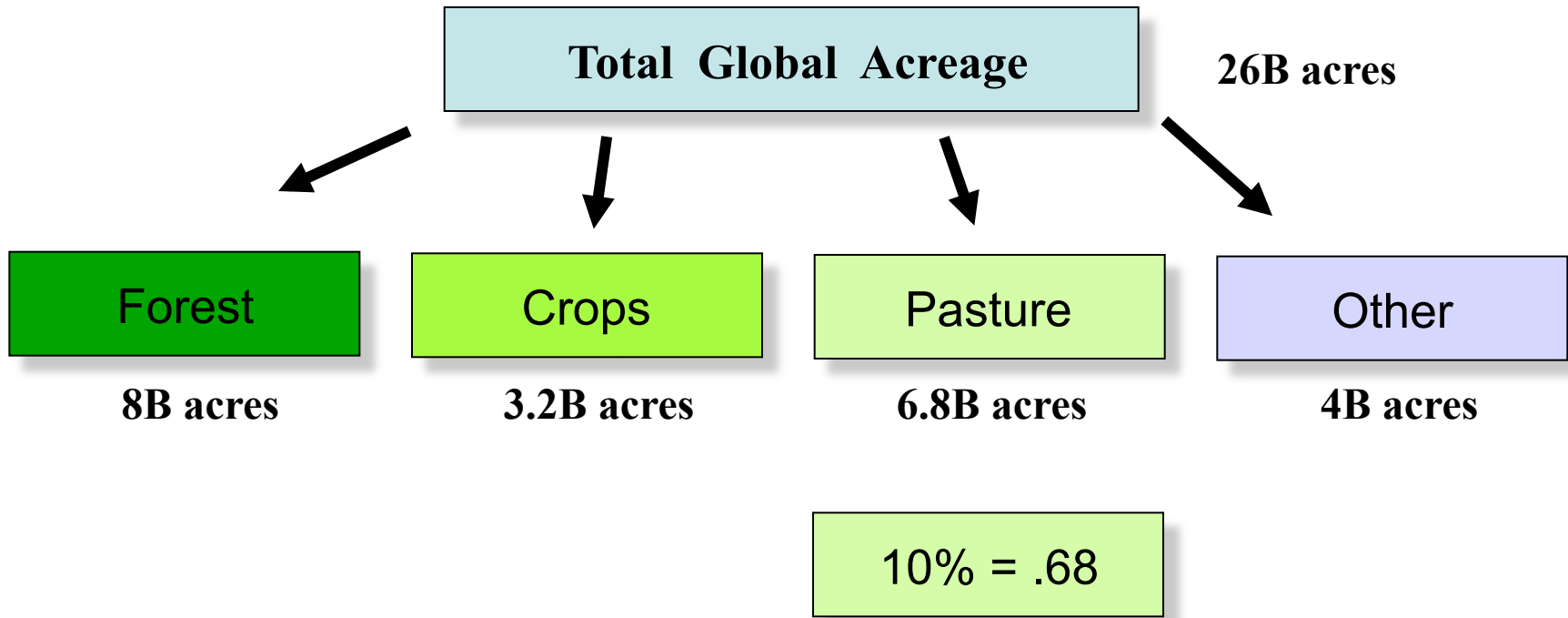
Further research is necessary to understand what is possible with improved genetics and new cultivation strategies

Bioenerg. Res. (2008) 1:215–222  
DOI 10.1007/s12155-008-9019-5





# Not Enough Land For Biomass?

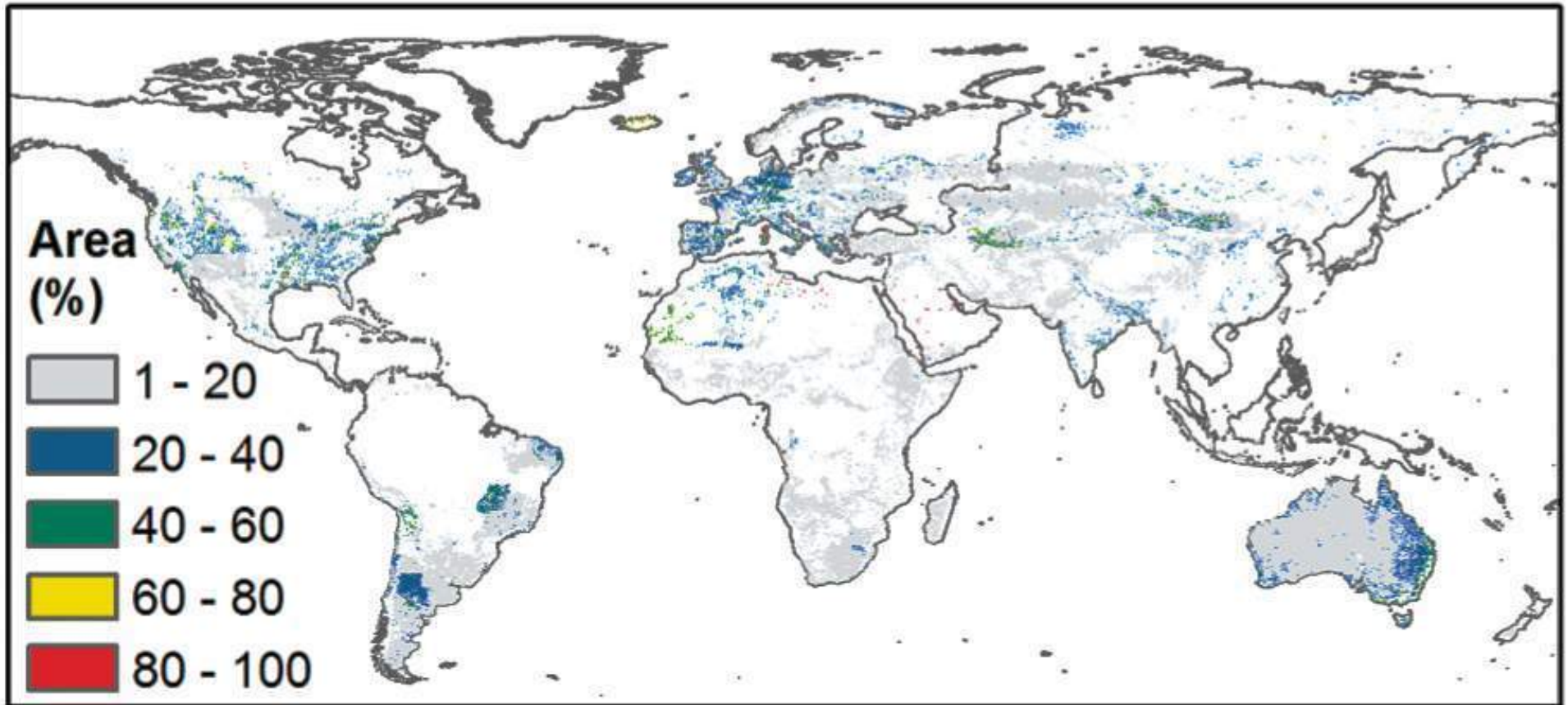


$$0.675\text{B acres} \times 20\text{t/ac} \times 2.38\text{B/t} = 88\text{M barrels per day}$$



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## >>A Billion Acres Of Abandoned Agricultural Land



Campbell et al., *Env. Sci. Technol.* (2008) **ASAP Article**, 10.1021/es800052w





# Feedstocks Are All Fungible?

- Is there such a thing as a non-food acre?
- Does food = feed = fiber = fuel?
- Is energy production an illegitimate use of land?
- Most of the corn in the grocery store...is in the meat aisle



**Cellulosic biorefineries**



**99% of Algae is grown for food...**



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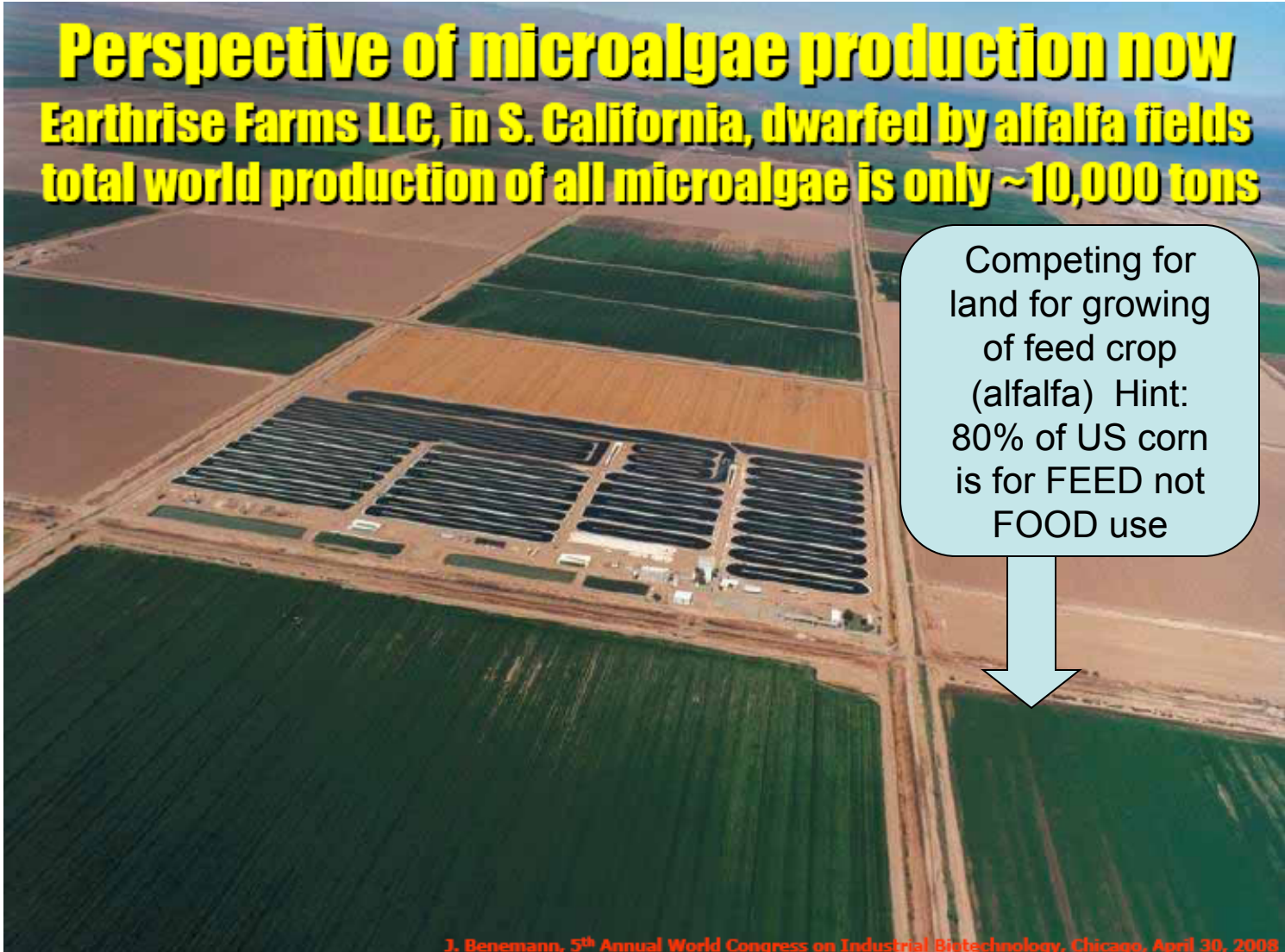
# Food, Feed or Fuel?



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**Perspective of microalgae production now**  
**Earthrise Farms LLC, in S. California, dwarfed by alfalfa fields**  
**total world production of all microalgae is only ~10,000 tons**

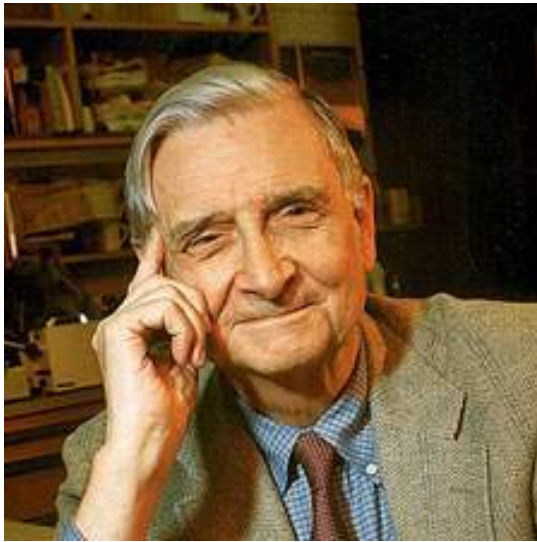


Competing for  
land for growing  
of feed crop  
(alfalfa) Hint:  
80% of US corn  
is for FEED not  
FOOD use

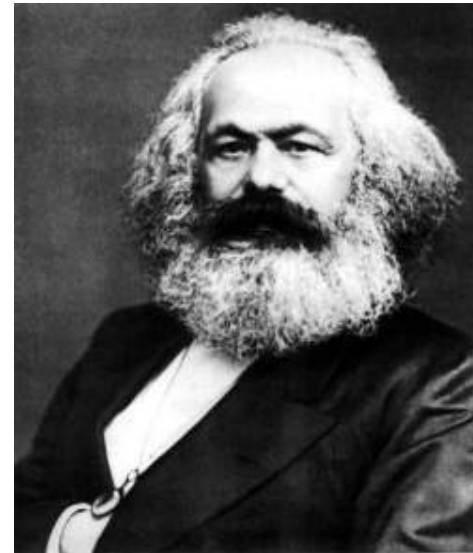




# Where is Humanity Headed?



E.O. Wilson



Karl Marx

“Wonderful theory...wrong species”



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## Two Different Visions of the Future

- A global population of 10 billion (grandchildren)
- High protein diets (meat)
- Personal mobility (cars)
- Energy availability (power)
- A global population of ~1 billion
- Vegan diets
- Limited mobility
- Limited power

“Wonderful theory...wrong species”



## Start With The End In Mind?

- If Scenario A is correct, where do we need to make investments?
  - Agricultural productivity
  - Agricultural sustainability
  - Inexpensive low-carbon power
  - Advanced biofuels (Hint: no electric jets...)
- If Scenario B is correct?
  - Massive sterilization and mandatory birth control
  - Religion-based dietary restrictions





# Building a Better Biofuel

[www.ceres.net](http://www.ceres.net)



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# The Perfect Energy Crop



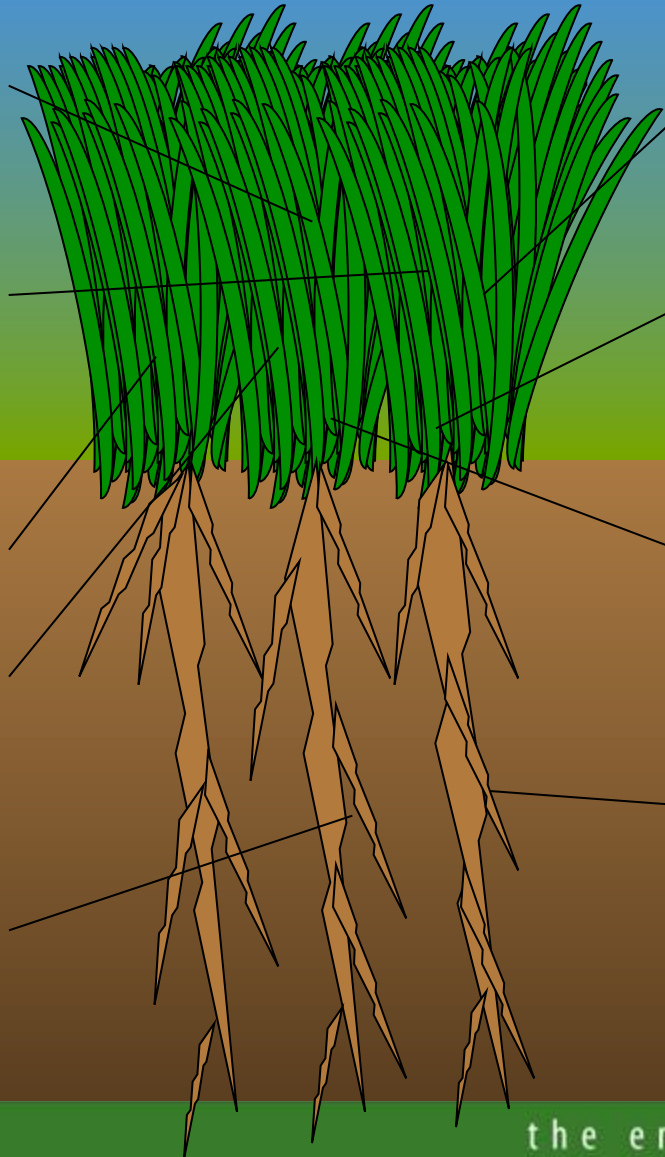
**High biomass:** increased growth rate, photosynthetic efficiency, delayed flowering

**Improved composition & structure:** higher fuel yield per ton

**Disease and pest resistance**

**Optimized architecture:** dense planting, no lodging, easier harvest

**Salt, pH and Aluminum tolerance**



**Rapid and cost-effective propagation**

**Stand establishment:** cold germination, cold growth

**Perennial:** multi-year crop, efficient nutrient use, high fossil energy ratio

**Deep roots:** drought tolerance, nutrient uptake, carbon sequestration

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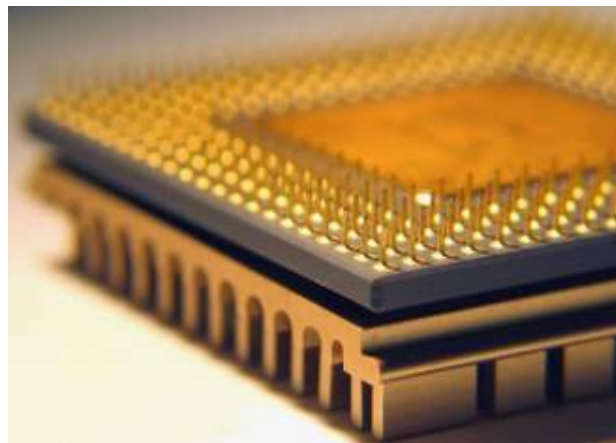
# A Third Technological Revolution

“Changes that will have effects comparable to those of the Industrial Revolution and the computer-based revolution are now beginning. The next great era, a genomics revolution, is in an early phase.

*Thus far, the pharmacological potentials of genomics have been emphasized, **but the greatest ultimate global impact of genomics will result from the manipulation of the DNA of plants.***

Ultimately, the world will obtain most of its food, fuel, fiber, chemical feedstocks, and some of its pharmaceuticals from genetically altered vegetation and trees.”

Philip H. Abelson, Editor  
Science, March 1998



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# Plant Genomics is Game Changing

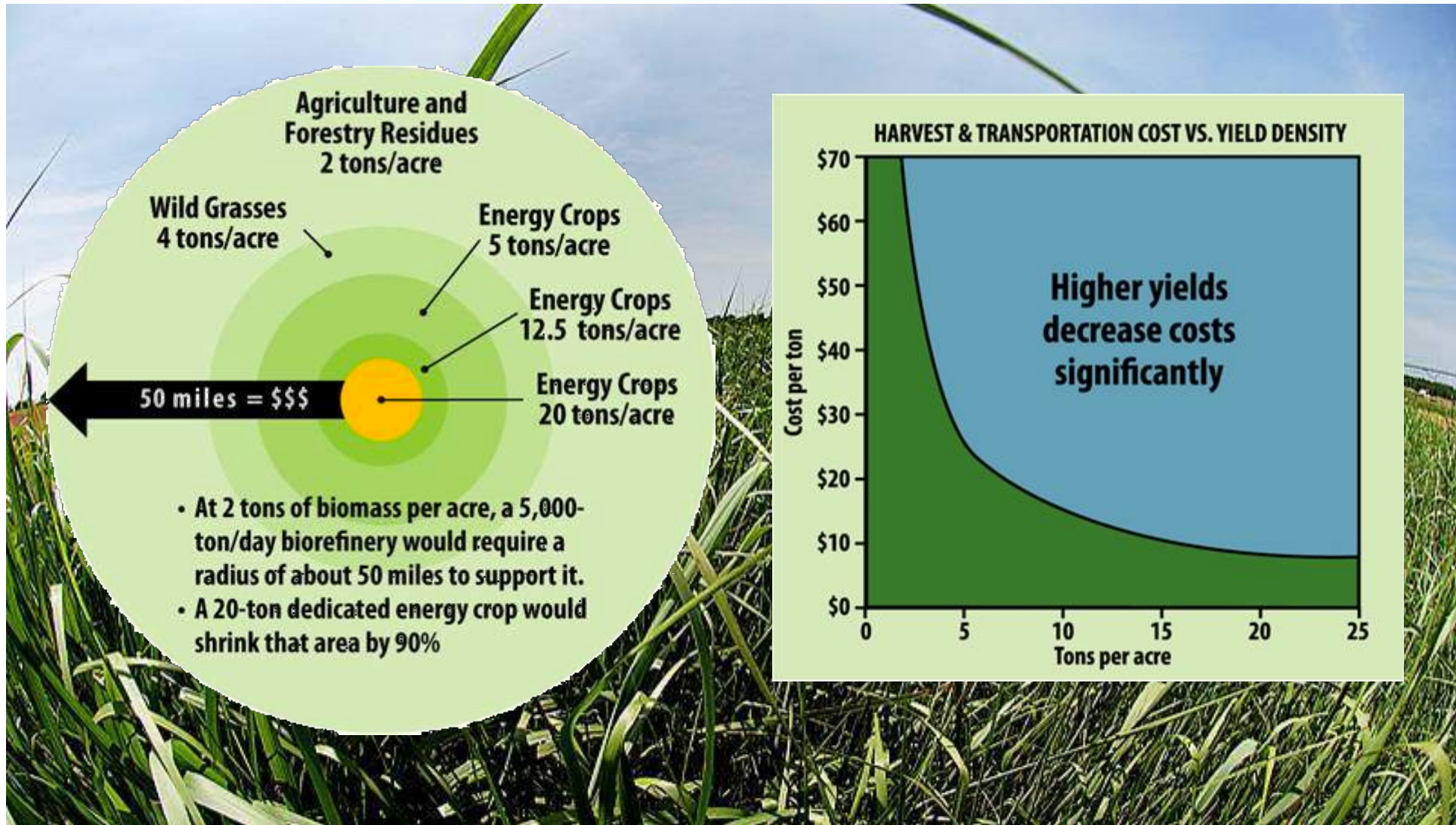
Parts of the Equation	Relevant Traits	Impact
<b>Acres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stress tolerance</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marginal acreage</li></ul>
<b>Tons per acre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased yield</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cut production and transport costs;</li><li>• Increased carbon sequestration</li></ul>
<b>Dollars per acre</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nutrient requirements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lower fertilizer costs</li><li>• Less N<sub>2</sub>O emissions</li></ul>
<b>Gallons per ton</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Composition &amp; structure</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase yield of fuel per ton of biomass</li></ul>
<b>Capital cost of refinery &amp; variable cost per gallon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Composition, structure &amp; enzyme production</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eliminate need for acid hydrolysis,</li><li>• Less enzymes</li><li>• Bring yields closer to theoretical</li></ul>
<b>Co-products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Metabolic engineering &amp; sequestration</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enhance overall economics</li></ul>





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# Biomass Yield Matters



\*graphic not to scale

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## Ceres Has Applied Genomics to Dramatically Increase Plant Biomass



Wild-type

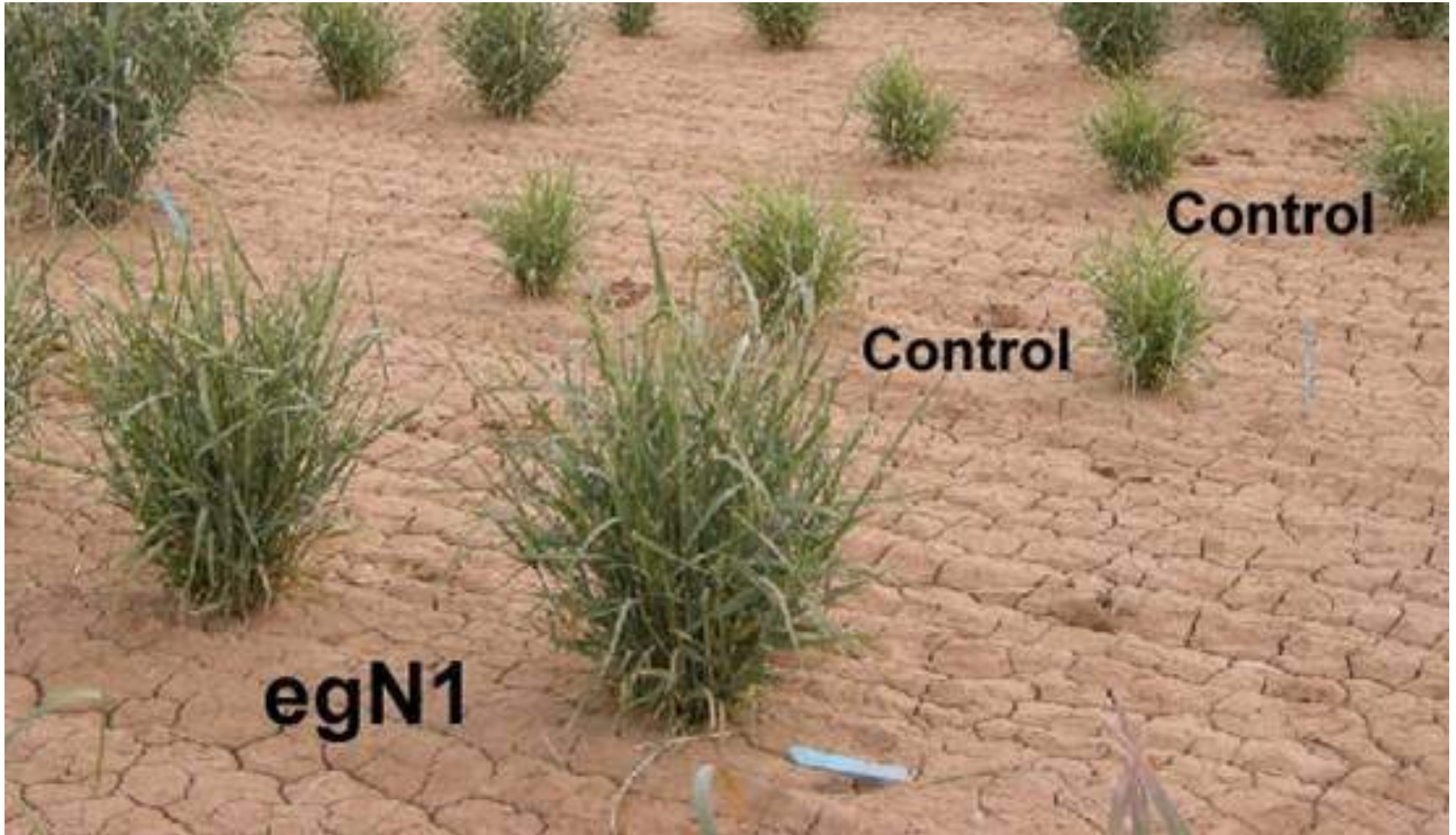
Improved

- Ceres has identified **>1,000 genes** that affect plant biomass
- Many are being field tested in rice, a grass model for energy crops
- Energy crop transformation and field testing is in progress



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# Nitrogen Use Efficiency and Biomass in Switchgrass



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# Salt-Tolerant Switchgrass (~seawater)



Decaying Roots



Healthy Roots



## Trait: Drought-Tolerance in Switchgrass

***Securing  
high yields  
on  
marginal  
land***

Time-Lapse Photography Over Two Days

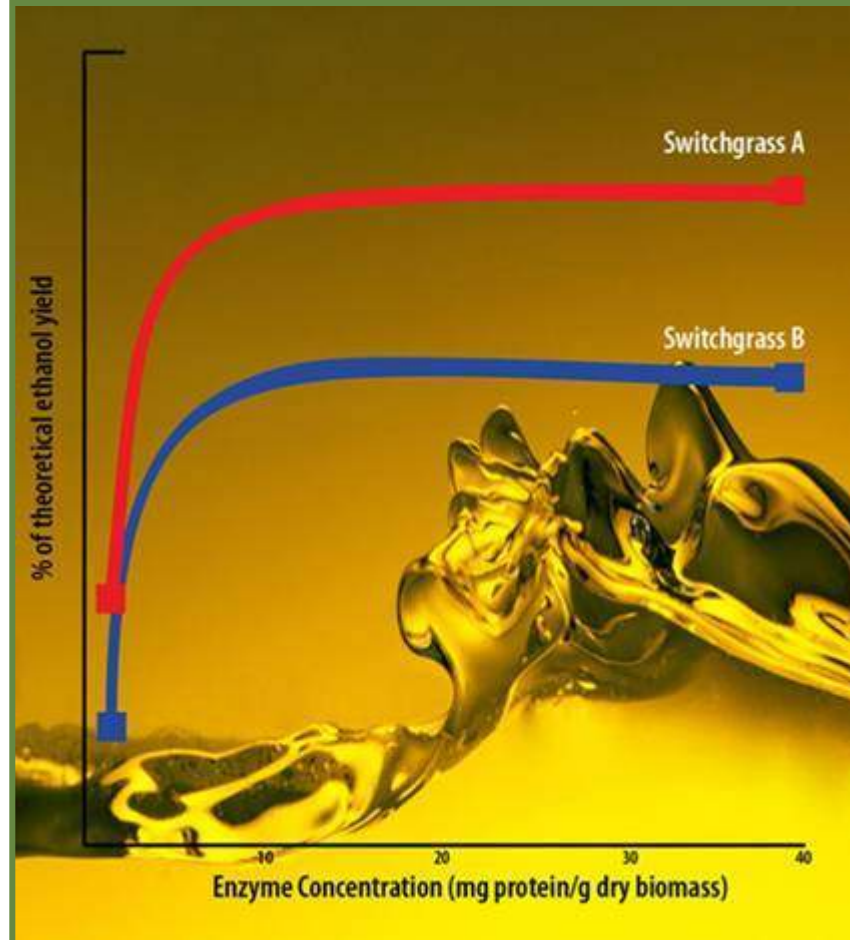


*Control*

*Drought-Tolerance Trait*



## Impact of Different SWG Cultivars on Conversion



*Increasing enzyme concentration does not overcome differences in biomass composition in this assay*

- **Crop Variations**
  - Composition, processing performance and energy content
  
- **Impact**
  - Increased productivity
  - Reduced enzyme cost
  - Reduced capital costs





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# Switchgrass



- Indigenous prairie grass
- Well adapted to US
- Perennial
- Propagates from seed
- Low input requirements
- Current yields ~10 t/acre





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# High-Biomass Sorghum



- High first year yields
- Annual
- Drought tolerant
- High seed yield
- Propagates from seed
- Yields of ~15 t/acre



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# Miscanthus



- **Asian grass**
- **Hybrid**
- **Sterile**
- **Low nitrogen requirements**
- **Propagates from cuttings**





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# Sweet Sorghum



- Fits existing sugarcane-to-biofuel infrastructure
- Season extender
- Range extender
- Short growth cycle: 90-120 days
- Hardy; low inputs
- Rapid breeding cycle
- Seed propagated
- Lower cost sugars
- Not priced by commodity markets



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# First Energy Crop Seed Brand



**BLADE**™  
**ENERGY CROPS**

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## We Work with Large End-Users to Establish Closed-Loop Biomass Systems



Big Cajun II Generating Station, New Roads, LA



## In the Future....



We will get most of our transportation fuels from:

- A) Electric cars
- B) Hydrogen
- C) Conventional oil and gas
- D) Biofuels
- E) Hot air from UCLA professors



## In the Future....



Societies should embrace the use of plant biotechnology to increase crop yields for food, feed, fiber and fuel:

- A) Yes
- B) No



**Thank You**

[www.ceres.net](http://www.ceres.net)



# Biomass as a Renewable Reserve

**21 year contract**

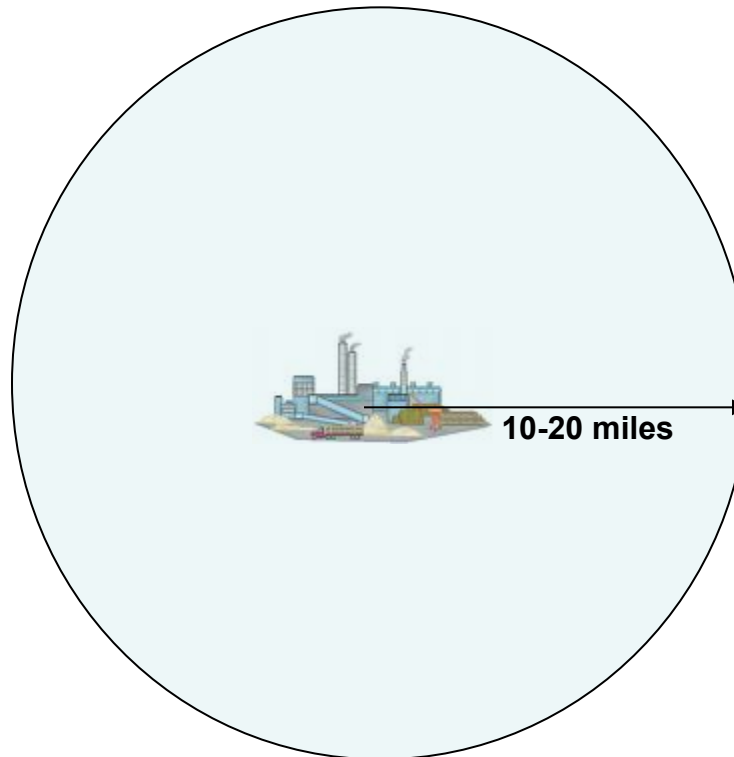
**20 tons / acre**

**100 gallons per ton**

**=  $4.2 \times 10^4$  gallons/acre**

**42 gallons per barrel**

**= 1,000 barrels per acre**



How many biorefineries, how many acres on a global basis?

Hint: >16M US corn acres currently used for biofuel production





# Biomass as Renewable Reserves



1 acre = 1,000 barrels of oil\*  
10M acres = 10 billion barrels

	Proven Reserves (billion barrels)
<b>Exxon Mobil</b>	22.20
<b>BP</b>	18.50
<b>Royal Dutch Shell</b>	12.98
<b>Chevron</b>	9.95
<b>Conoco Phillips</b>	7.60

\* Assumes 21 yr contract  
Source: Energy Intelligence (data as of end of 2004)